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Gardeners of the

Pacific Southwest

JULY

1939

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The Founders . . . .

By ALFRED D. ROBINSON

I approach with reluctance an assignment to write of the founding of the **San Diego Floral Association** and the start of its **California Garden** magazine, because it is so easy to fail to give deserved credit to the many who shared in these events, particularly when such matter is based on the memory of what happened thirty years ago. It is hoped that this will be borne in mind when the following is read.

As in wars and other major events, the formation of the San Floral Association was precipitated by a somewhat trivial incident. Returning to San Diego in the fall of 1904 after two years abroad, I was full of a Flower Show I had attended in the Temple Gardens in London, and when I interviewed Forecaster Ford Carpenter for a preview of the weather, which he declined to give, I spilled over about the Temple, and Flower Shows in general, enough to enthuse him with the idea of one for San Diego. Mr. Carpenter was some kind of an officer in the Chamber of Commerce and he brought up the matter before that august body which appointed a committee to further the idea. This committee was Ford Carpenter, Gifford, the olive man, and myself, and we duly foregathered and decided to call a public meeting. The meeting was held in the room above the Express Office on Broadway and had a fair attendance. Between these two meetings my mind had become set on an independent organization for the job. I was then and still am rather afraid of committees, as they usually originate in a buck-passing and have a facility in continuing the process.

Mr. Carpenter took the chair and called on me for the opening argument. Others spoke all in favor of the idea, among them Louis Blochman who rendered later noble service in keeping the organization clear of the usual organization ruts, and the Rev. Hinson who quoted that poem about the little flower growing in the cranny wall. A resolution to form the San Diego Floral Association was put and unanimously adopted and signatures were taken on a scrap of paper. I do not think that any others of those in attendance at that meeting are still in San Diego though there may be, as I have no list, but there are charter members.

The first show was held in Unity Hall then on downtown Sixth st. Donations of flowers were called for through the press and they came in a huge variety and quantity by various means, even by wagon loads. So great was the response that a perfect windrow was dumped down the middle of the hall, to the consternation of those in charge of arrangement. A body of women led by Mrs. Marion Robinson attacked the job and by evening a kind of order was established with a display all around the walls. That evening almost all of San Diego attended—it was a free show.

When the San Diego Floral Association was two years old, the idea of having its own publication to record its activities and spread floral information and advice, became almost a demand from the

(Continued on Page 9)

TO A JACARANDA

Lovely exotic Jacaranda Tree,
Amid the palms you proudly lift on high
Your leafy crown of fern-like foliage,
Beneath the glory of an alien sky.

Under the golden glances of the sun
Your boughs with countless blossoms bud and blow,
At night above your delicate fringed leaves,
Their silver lace the moonbeams lightly throw.

The gentle winds sometimes your branches stir,
Perchance from your green glooms the southern breeze
Brings whispers of songs or clash of castinets,
The phantom echoes of great memories.

Decked in your panoply of purple plumes,
Magnificent in regal state and stand,
Matchless and beautiful beyond compare,
A queen in exile in a foreign land.

—Lila Monroe Tainter.

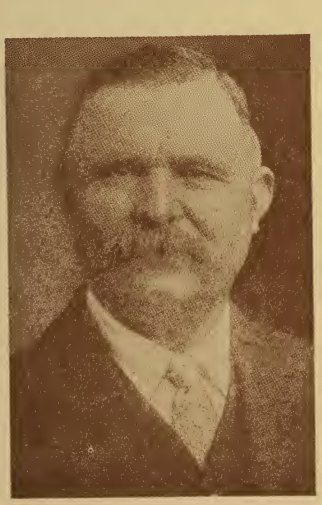
REMINISCENCE and COMMEMORATION

By "OLDTIMERS"

ERNEST BENARD

On a day in 1887 several carloads of nursery stock came to San Diego for use on the grounds of the Hotel del Coronado. In charge of the shipment was a young man who, at the time, did not know that he was coming to stay. Ernest Benard was so taken with the little southern town that he gave up his position as foreman with the California Nurseries of Niles and settled here permanently. He took up land in Mission Valley and there established the nursery business that still carries on in his name, the oldest, now, in the city.

Mr. Benard gave a great deal to the magazine in the early days as will be attested by any early issue.



E. Benard

He was prominent as a rosarian and his writings were largely on the subject of roses, the varieties to grow and their culture. At first he specialized in olives and during the reign of this fruit planted many of the large orchards that are still to be seen, introducing varieties from abroad. Many of the very early ornamental plantings of the city are his and, it is said, the first to be made in Balboa Park.

He was born in France, February 18, 1959 and came of a long line of nurserymen. Reaching this country in 1884, he worked in and around Philadelphia and New York before being lured to the west. Here he found his work and his place.

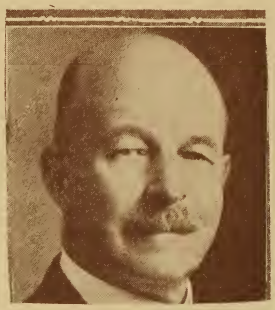
—Mrs. Ernest Benard.

MR. WALTER BIRCH

The other day our editor called me up and asked that I write a few lines about my father who for so many years was active in the seed business in San Diego and a member of long standing in the San Diego Floral Association, serving that organization as vice-president for a number of years and up until the time he passed on.

Dad was born near Roscrea, County Tipperary, Ireland, and lived on the old family estate until he was eighteen at which time he came out to western Canada, where he ranched for a number of years, during the early days of that country. He and mother came to southern California on their honeymoon and falling in love with this country they settled in the Escondido Valley about 1891, where we three children were born. Dad moved the family up to Riverside in 1899, making the trip with a horse and buggy, less than a three hour run in a car now, but quite some trip in those days with "Old Dobbin" furnishing the motive power.

We moved back down to San Diego in 1907 and he became interested in the Harris Seed Company in 1908 and continued in that business up until the day he passed on. Dad was always vitally interested in growing things, especially flowers and used to make frequent trips up to the large seed farms where so many of our good flower seeds are produced, to keep in touch with the newer varieties. He enjoyed nothing better than getting out and digging in his garden. He was always very much interested in the welfare of the Floral Association



Walter Birch

and used to devote considerable time to it and the California Garden.

When things are not going just right I often think of a little verse he used to repeat, (author unknown):

"When the whole blamed world
seems gone to pot,
And business is on the bum,
A cheerful grin, and a lifted chin,
Helps some, my boy, helps some."

—Walter Birch, Jr.

Looking back over the twenty beautiful years since I came to California, I find that I have drawn frequent and substantial floral sustenance from this, our little magazine. It's devotion to local problems has been complete and most helpful. The Floral Association is to be congratulated on its success which is doubtless due in a great measure to the excellent personnel it has drawn about it. What further improvement may we not expect, although it now holds a high place with those who know.

Since having come to San Diego, I find that a certain garden has proved my salvation. The making of

Mrs. Evans

it has been an inspiration from above. I cried "Oh Lord, I am oppressed—undertake for me." It has pushed loneliness, sorrow and affliction away. More, it has dissipated any thought of, or attempt to make me accept the belief of invalidism.

Our editor insists on my picture appearing with these few thoughts. I comply, if you will accept this above, taken in Paris in 1925. A new one is unthinkable.

—Mrs. Herbert S. Evans.

Three decades ago a little group of "first citizens" banded together to form the San Diego Floral Association and to publish The California Garden, the official journal of the Association. Did the founders then have visions that from that small beginning, the Association would steadily grow without a single break, through these thirty years, until it would be rated the oldest garden club in the state, and that The California Garden would rank as the oldest garden publication in the state? They must have so visioned, for they builded upon the sound principle that the individual must share responsibility for the betterment of his community, and that in rendering service to his environment, the individual thereby achieves his own growth.

The high principles of service which actuated the founders of the Floral Association have ever lighted the torch, and helped us in the carrying out of the many activities listed elsewhere in this issue of The California Garden.

During the thirteen years of my presidency of the Association, it has been a genuine pleasure to work with the fine men and women on the board of directors and on the various committees, and with the general membership, who have all demonstrated a real spirit of cooperation and of service.

Let us not cast only backward glances, but let us also look forward—forward three times three decades and discover all along the way ever stronger growths and achievements.

Mrs. Greer

—Mary Greer

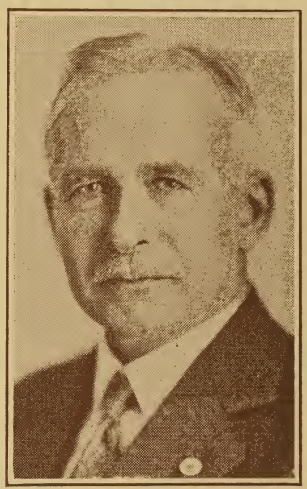
1887-1939

Like most boys in my youth I loved to read stories of explorers and botanical travelers. A friend of my parents, a so-called forty niner, returned from California and told of his experiences and awakened my desire to see California. An old geography description of Southern California gave the country more of a desert nature with plenty of cactus and succulents.

In the summer of 1887 I reached San Francisco. In the spring of 1889 I was looking for employment. A Miss K. O. Sessions offered me a position as gardener in her nursery in Coronado and told me about the wonders of the southland. When I told her what I had learned about Southern California she offered to pay my fare if I would promise to stay sixty days in her employ. I accepted although my San Francisco friends told me I wouldn't stay down here that long. The old steamer Santa Rosa brought me here and this year completes my fifty years in the southland.

San Diego after the boom of 1887 looked none too good from the point of business conditions compared with San Francisco. Coronado had no paved street and was not nearly as inviting as today.

The first planting in Balboa Park was done by Mr. Bryant Howard about where the Navy Hospital stands today. Cypress,, in hedge form, to represent the Latin words —"A sound mind in a sound body" —stood out very prominently but later was neglected when a home for old people which had been erected on the tract burned down.



Geo. F. Otto

In 1891 Miss Sessions got thirty-five acres from the city at the northwest corner of the park and the start of growing flowers and plants

on a larger scale was made with many obstacles to contend with, especially rabbits which were a pest.

Many meetings were held to get street trees planted in San Diego and surrounding country, but the condition of the soil varies so much that the efforts made in that direction were expensive without any results. Eucalyptus, acacia and peppers have been eliminated. Cocos plumosa is undoubtedly the best suited and outstanding of the tall growing plants for our section. Nature has been very kind to San Diego, but on shallow soil we have to resort to shrubs to beautify our streets — Hibiscus, Pittosporums, Lantanas, etc.—to give a bright and unique appearance. Let us not forget for our yards the "Heaven On Earth" flower—Poinsettia which deserves to be given the best of attention to bring our city to the front as a city for flower culture and good appearance.

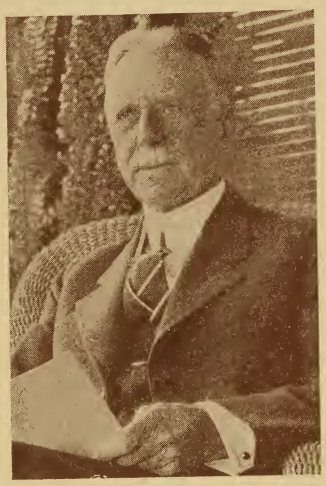
In 1893 I started a nursery and floral establishment of my own in National City and for the last 35 years have been located on 35th and National Avenue in San Diego with my son.

—George F. Otto.

The year 1909 was a year of new things in San Diego. G. Aubrey Davidson started the movement for the Exposition, and that started a lot of things.

Our gardens were rather ragged places thirty years ago and City Park (now Balboa) was a pleasant wilderness in some parts, but on the four marginal sides and in nearby canyons, there were quite unpleasant heaps of trash—tin cans, ashes, etc. Sixth Avenue, on the west, was then neither a street nor an avenue, just a dusty roadway and impassable south of Juniper.

The Exposition became known as the Garden Fair and gave a great impulse toward better gardening. And then began the stimulating influence of the Floral Association. In all the years following the Association has inspired and trained the lovers of good gardens. It was fortunate that three such leaders as Miss Sessions and Messrs. Robinson and Hieatt were then here to give the needed direction. Since



Geo. W. Marston

then under the able administration of Mrs. Greer and others the Association has continued its important work. In consequence of this leadership our gardening and landscape treatment has become more intelligent and effectilve. I congratulate the Association on its fine contribution to the beauty of San Diego and the joy of living here.

—George W. Marston.

San Diego, with its Mexican heritage, had an early love of flowers. Our "oldest inhabitant" can remember the unpretentious dwellings of the early settlers, with their modesty set in relief by a rather haphazard grouping of shrubs and flowers. There was the invariable Mexican Trumpet (Datura suaveolens) together with other colorful shrubs like the Rose of Castile, Heliotrope and of course the red Geranium.

The grounds were fragrant not only with the scent of flowers, but with the love of them. That devotion was contagious, and one of the things bequeathed to the new order by the old was its love of flowers and the joy thereof. It was a gift of the Latin temperament to the Early American.

As San Diego prospered, gardens grew, and every housewife tended them with loving care. But to keep up an interest through the years, in the face of discouragement that came from little water and poor soil (we hate to confess the poorness of that soil) required the presence of some tutelary genius of the garden.

And chance—or was it pure love of growing things — brought that boon to us in the person of Miss Kate Sessions—originally one of the most beloved of San Diego teachers. (Probably she found even our poor soil less refractory than the local youth in our schools.) At any rate, no one can write of old San Diego gardens without making Miss Sessions their central figure. She was at once guide, instructor and inspirer. By deep study and eager research she ransacked every clime for new plants and then tested them for their adaptability to this environment.

For that purpose, she instituted her nursery; for that purpose she secured a section of Balboa Park (then a wild waste) to test the response of various types of trees; and you, who are thrilled by the lovely grove at the west side of the Park around Spruce, will have ocular proof at once of her enterprise and judgment.

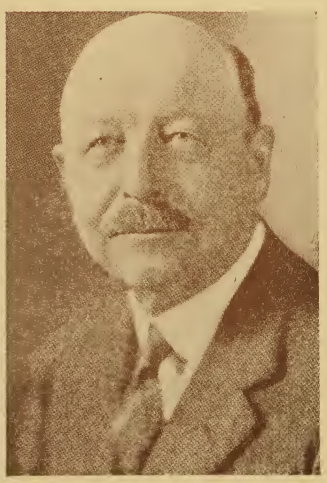
San Diego can't rival Hawaii in flowering trees; it must share honors with the Northern Bay regions for the glory of its flowers; but it stands unsurpassed in the richness of its vines, the Bougainvillaeas, the Wisterias, the Bignonias (most spectacular of all) the Tecomas and many others.

Whoever in travelling through our city, is thrilled by its profusion of color and its wealth of beauty, let them doff their hats with a "Bless you, Miss Sessions."

—Julius Wangenheim.

Congratulations to the publishers of the California Garden on its 30th anniversary.

In the 30 years of its existence, it has always been in the forefront in advocating the development of horticulture and floriculture for the benefit of San Diego, through the efforts of Mr. A. D. Robinson, its founder, and other able contributors to its success, notably Miss K. O. Sessions, Silas Osborn, R. R.



John Morley

McLean, and members of the San Diego Floral Association, headed by Mrs. Mary A. Greer and her fine staff of executives.

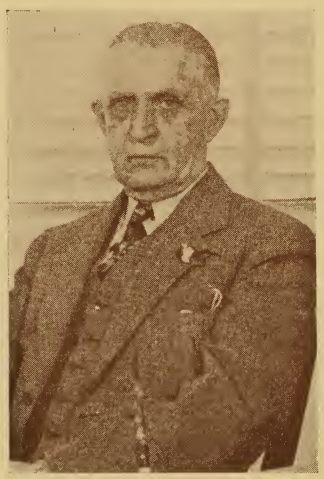
During this time, Balboa Park has been developed from brush-covered hills to a park known all over the country. In the 1915-1916 Expositions, the landscape and architectural developments were outstanding features, and then again during the 1935-1936 Expositions, when the beauty of the setting was admired by the many thousands of visitors from all over the United States and foreign countries.

The Zoological Garden, ranking fourth largest in the country, is one of the most attractive features of the park. The recreational facilities for the enjoyment of the people—the stadium with a seating capacity of 28,000 people—the 9-hole and 18-hole golf links—the swimming pool and tennis courts at Morley field, and the shuffleboard and roque courts have kept Balboa Park well to the front in park development, with continued improvements contemplated for the future.

—J. G. Morley.

In reviewing some of the tangible accomplishments of the San Diego Floral Association—and it should be said that the accomplishments of this organization have been many—one that stands out prominently in the writer's estimation is its successful effort to stimulate sentiment looking toward the protection of wild plant life in San Diego County.

Because of the increasing amount of automobile traffic and the development of good roads into desert territory some ten or fifteen years ago, it became apparent that some protection must be given our native flora. Sentiment so promoted and developed by the Association resulted in an initial ordinance being adopted by the Board of Supervisors. This first ordinance was designed particularly to protect various species of yuccas and was perhaps one of the first of its kind adopted by any California county. After a time it was found that other wild plants needed protection also and consequently in 1928 an amended ordinance was put into effect protecting cactus, agaves, ocotillo and many other species of rare and valuable desert, mountain and coast plants.



Robert R. McLean

About a year later it was determined by the Association to propose that our county ordinance be drastically amended to make it unlawful to collect any native tree, flowering shrub, ornamental plant, berry bearing plant, vine, fern or wild flower growing either on public land or on any land not the property of the collector, without a permit. This ordinance still stands and has been followed by similar ordinances and laws both by the State of California and by other counties in the state. Although, of course, no ordinance of its kind can be 100 percent effective, nevertheless, its result has been to greatly slow down the careless and unnecessary destruction of our native flora.

—Robert R. McLean

RODNEY STOKES

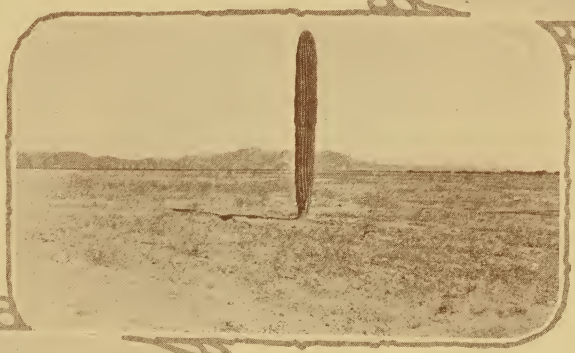
No anniversary number of the California Garden would be complete without a tribute to Rodney Stokes, our first secretary.

To the formation of the association and to the early shows, Rodney gave freely of his time and boundless energy. He was a friend and helper to every member, hunting out the shy ones who thought they had nothing worthy of exhibition and encouraging them to bring in the results of their gardening efforts and spurring them on to further endeavor.

As it was written in his obituary in the September, 1912 issue of the Garden: "Among an humanity that seemingly of purpose stereotypes itself in manners and clothes, Rodney was an individual; a bright spot of color that scintillated as the sunshine is absorbed and given out, he

Rodney Stokes

THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST



SALUTATIONS PIONEERS

They came to the vast reaches of the Southwest, coastal plains or sundrenched valleys rimmed with mountains . . . Such as this we are now farming . . beans or petunias . . each in our own way for pleasure or profit.

was the point along the wire where the electric spark flashes."

Rodney Stokes helped to steer the course of the association and the magazine through the first four years which was the crucial time and during a period which saw so many such organizations throughout the country die for want of just the energy and steadfast loyalty which he and Mr. Robinson gave to our association.

Through the sincere friendship which many of the San Diego businessmen felt for Rodney, many prizes and donations came to the show committee and many subscriptions to the magazine. As I recall those days it seems to me no show committee was complete without the names of Mr. and Mrs. Blochman, Mrs. German, Miss Sessions, Mrs. Fred Scripps and Rodney Stokes.

Miss A. M. Rainford.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED ON

This has no intention of being a list in any sense.

Without reference to anything but my memory I recall these who to my pleasure and profit contacted me in my connection with the San Diego Floral Association.

The first secretary Rodney Stokes, a small but very compact bundle of energy. I knew him most intimately from a two-day trip to the mountains through Idylwild and Banning, when his capacity in pie-consuming completely amazed me. He attacked pies as he did everything else like a machine gun and was often as effective.

Vice President Rogers who offered consolation when I cried on the stage in Germania Hall at the lack of appreciation of our really wonderful show there. His sympathy was backed by $100 to help meet the large deficit.

E. Benard was equally good for what ailed me for he laughed so understandingly. In his rose articles in the Garden, the language is mine, but the ideas are his. When those were written, Benard was the acknowledged authority on roses in this part of the world. He was born in the south of France in the very center of rose activity, in a rose family. Every month I sat with him under his big palms in Mission Valley and he brought out his notes written in that beautiful script he had with a half inch scrub of pencil and discoursed on roses, ancient and modern. He wrote the most beautiful hand I ever saw.

Then there was G. P. Hall who did the Vegetable Garden articles, and did them well. He knew our local climatic and soil eccentricities. He wrote a book on Gardening full of formula and advice, which the Floral Association published, but it lacked the alluring pictures and adjectives that sell such publications.

Another early Vice President was Mrs. E. B. Scott, a charming lady who sent me ferns from the Santa Cruz mountains and yet another, Lyman J. Gage, but far the best known was Walter Birch, the record of whose service is amazing in its length and faithfulness.

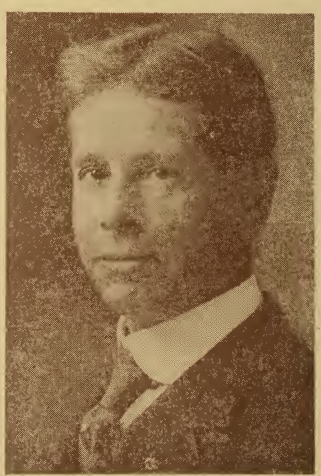
Stephen Connell was President when the real work of securing the Floral Home in Balboa Park was done. He laid the foundation so well that when the time came all that was necessary was just to go and take it.

Finally I come to a pair of workers, who, though I do not believe ever held office in the Floral Association, must be given first consideration in any mention of its early history—Mr. and Mrs. M. German. As I write I can see Mr. German in that monumental red auto, which one entered through a door in the middle of the back and ascended by steps, chauffeuring and trucking day or night, he hauled anything anywhere. Also I vividly recall the last night before the Dewey celebration. I was in bed in a local hotel completely worn out, when a knock came at the door, it was the clerk seeking to evict me in favor of an out of town visitor who he said had made prior reservation and I could not persuade him otherwise. I had resigned myself to a return to Point Loma when I thought of Mrs. German and I called her over the telephone. Could she and would she put me up. She could and would and further, she had hot coffee and the rest ready by the time I got there. Later on I found out she had been called out of bed by my telephone call. And that was the kind of people the Germans were. Mrs. Germans sister Mrs. J. Byers Smith was Association secretary for some time.

Oh what a lot of real people there were, Mrs. Tom Daley, the belle of old or young San Diego; A. R. Valentine, the artist who drew the first poppy cover for the magazine; George Cook, the landscaper in whose office City Manager Rhodes drew the plan for the show in Germania Hall; Mrs. W. P. Cooke who sang often and delightfully and last, but by no means least, Mrs. Louis Blochman, who could forget her or would want to if they could, a perennial refreshment chairman who made housewives jealous.

Of course there were others, and to one and all I render tribute in thanks from my heart and I write this, that you may join in.

Alfred D. Robinson.



John Burnham

Mr. John Burnham was long an active member of the Floral association and at the time of his death in March of 1926 was the treasurer. His avocational interests lay largely in the field of natural history and related subjects. He was at that time a director of the Natural History

Museum where may be found many exhibits of birds eggs prepared by him under state and federal government license. He was also a director of the San Diego Zoological Society to which institution he gave one of the wild animal cages. He was, in fact, an ornithologist of unusual attainments and considerable recognition. Always a lover of nature in all forms, his active mind turned instinctively to horticulture and his home on Homer street in Loma Portal contained many rare specimens of trees, shrubs and other plants. An early collector of rarities, he was one of the first to bring in the Staghorn Fern and Hawaiian Tree Fern while many palms there are from seed brought in from different parts of the world.

When I was a child I thought it gave great importance for a person to be asked to reminisce, but now I have been asked to relate the beginning of the Floral Association. It makes me seem so old, when I feel so young, that it hardly seems possible that I was with the first to plan and put on the first flower show. I do not remember the names of all the committee but I know there were Mr. Lyman Gage, Mr. Fleming, Mr. A. D. Robinson, Mrs. A. D. Robinson, Mr. Benard, Miss K. O. Sessions and myself. We used to meet and have lunch together, discussing ways and means to put on the show. We did not have the beautiful gardens nor the helpful **California Garden** to draw from, as we have today. We gardeners were apt to grow something he or she had been especially fond of in their native home garden, and our endeavors were very discouraging, for we were told by the nursery-men that you could not grow what grew in the East or England.

When we bought our home place, Braemar, forty years ago, it was covered with devil grass and sweet alyssum, not to mention everything from old stoves to mousetraps. We started, with the help of Miss K. O. Sessions, to make an English Garden, combining it with an Illinois garden, I being from England and Mr. Scripps from Rushville, Illinois. We were just about to give up and let nature take its course when a bed of phlox that Mr. Scripps had planted began to bloom at a great rate. Mr. Scripps said then, "Illinois has won," but I said, "Phlox grows beautifully in England too." Then he said, "it is a good sign, we shall win out," and judging from the garden today, I can truly say we have won out. Last spring our bulbs were splendid, the English Spring Flower, Forget-me-not, blue as the sky and wall flowers. The bank of primroses against the north side of the walled garden were as fine as any I have ever seen in the woods of England. Blue Bells that did not carpet the floor of woods, but enough to cast the soft satin sheen of blue over the border of the lath house, bringing back memories of childhood days when the cookoos were calling and the distant Church bells ringing.

So is the wonder and glory of San Diego County. With perseverence you can grow anything that is grown in the world. It has taken the combined will of so many people who were determined to bring their old home surroundings about them and make this a flower land in all its abundance and variety. So it is with the friendliness of its people—they are ever ready to put out a hand of welcome and cheer to the newcomer, because they too have known the feeling of home sickness.

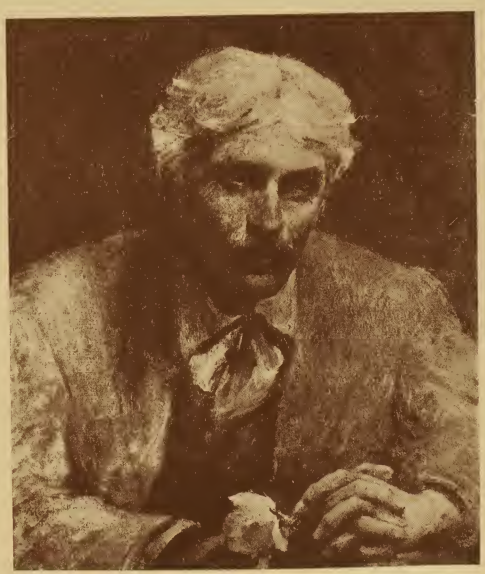
—Mrs. F. T. Scripps.

The **California Garden Magazine** of the **San Diego Floral Association** has been the guiding mother holding not only the garden minded and flower loving friends of San Diego together but has established a record for horticultural interest over the state. To have been a contributor to its pages has been a privilege and an inspiration.

In looking over some of oldest numbers of the California Garden I find there is much desirable information that should be considered at this later date and would advise members to look them over seriously for consideration and for suggestions to be brought to the future meetings. It is desirable also that the members enter into a more generous discussion with garden topics and city improvements. As a body it should be able to have a decided influence in civic beauty.

The value of horticultural improvements of this county has a more powerful influence for its de-

• ALPHA OMEGA •



Alfred D. Robinson

velopment in every way than the general public realizes and each year I feel more strongly this great value and often wish I had twenty years ahead of me with my former youthful vigor to help carry out many of my ideals or inspirations.

This Floral Association and Magazine had the very best president and editor, Mr. A. D. Robinson for so many years, that was possible anywhere and its success has been largely due to its fine beginning that has made them and their policy established.

Mr. Robinson was followed by Mr. L. A. Blochman for a short time and later Mrs. Mary Greer became its valued leader for these many years.

More observation of special successful planting and their locations in the city and county noted each month in the magazine would be an asset. These facts appear monthly in the Santa Barbara Garden Magazine.

That its future should have the keen and helpful interest of every member is my sincere wish.

—K. O. Sessions.

The Founders

(Continued from Page 1)

ever growing membership. The local papers were printing meagre and misleading, if not ridiculous reports of the doings of the association and when the inadequacy of these was pointed out to the editors, they frankly confessed that they had no one on their staff equal to the job. It should be remembered, that in those days it was little short of a sign of grave eccentricity to be more than casually interested in flowers. The committee to arrange for the publication of the magazine, under the name of the California Garden suggested by Louis Blochman, was L. A. Blochman, K. O. Sessions, Miss Manasse, F. A. Frye and A. D. Robinson who got out the first number for July 1909. In a Foreword published elsewhere the aims and hopes of the magazine are clearly stated, and the contributors

(Continued on page 24)

The Summer Garden . . . .

By WALTER BIRCH, Jr.

First of all, congratulations to the San Diego Floral Association and the California Garden for thirty years of successful service to the Community.

The main thing about your garden in summer is to keep the soil moist at all times. Hand sprinkling will not suffice, as the water only penetrates from a quarter to a half inch, even though it looks good and wet on top. If you wish to sprinkle set your sprinkler down and let it run for at least twenty-five minutes without moving. A very good way to get the water where you want it is to use a Soil Soaker. These are canvas tubes that are attached to the garden hose and let the water seep out along their entire length. Being made of canvas it is necessary to hang them up and let them dry thoroughly after using, otherwise they will rot out in a few weeks, but treated properly will last for at least a year. The other satisfactory way to irrigate is to dig shallow furrows along the rows of plants then let the water run slowly down these furrows until the soil is thoroughly soaked. The surface of the soil should be stirred up a couple of days after irrigation, no matter what method of water application you use, this to prevent the surface from baking or forming a crust. In the average garden a thorough irrigation followed by a light cultivation will keep the soil moist for a week or ten days.

A good mulch will aid greatly in conserving moisture. Weedless pulverised steer manure makes the number one mulch and also supplies considerable plant food. Agricultural Peat Moss is also very generally used and is quite satisfactory, possibly lasting a little longer than the steer manure but not supplying any plant food to speak of. The steer manure is now packed in clean, handy paper bags containing two and a quarter cubic feet and weighing in the neighborhood of sixty pounds. It has no dirt, weed seed or trash in it and best of all is moderately priced.

If this sort of half foggy weather continues, keep your eye peeled for mildew and spray at the first signs with a good fungicide, or better, spray every couple of weeks as a preventative. Any of the standard fungicides will be O.K. Garden Volck two tablespoons to a quart of water; Fungusol Emulsion two teaspoons to a quart of water; Coposil, one half tablespoon to a quart; Bordeaux Mixture one tablespoon to a quart. Dust with Cubor Sulphur Dust or any good copper dust. The main thing is to spray or dust thoroughly, that is, cover the entire plant from top to bottom and on both sides of the leaves. One cannot put too much stress on thorough application for either Insecticides or Fungicides.

Watch out for Red Spiders on your Dahlias and Chrysanthemums. If they light, control them with Barfoot Rotenone, Volck, Fungusol Emulsion or other Oil Spray. They may also be dusted with Sulphur.

Thrips on late plantings of Gladiolus. As soon as the plants are about six inches high start spraying them with a solution of Rotenone, one teaspoon Rotenone and two teaspoons Barfoot Spreader to the gallon of water, repeating every six or seven days.

Sow Seeds of Calendula, Candytuft, Cosmos, Centaurea, Cineraria, Daisies, Marigold, Nasturtium, Portulaca, Poppies, Salpiglossis, Zinnia.

Plants of Asters, Ageratum, Begonia, Bellis, Calendula, Carnation, Chrysanthemum, Cosmos, Dahlia, Marigold, Petunia, Pentstemon, Salvia, Stocks and Zinnia.

Vegetables, seeds of carrots, turnips, beets, mustard, spinach, corn, string beans, cucumbers, melons and squash. Plants of tomatoes, peppers and egg plant.

S. D. Floral Association meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Floral Bldg., Balboa Park, 7:30 p. m.

Chronological Outline of Activities

By ALICE GREER

When our editor asked me to outline the activities of the Floral Association since its inception, thirty-two years ago, I thought, "A delightful and comparatively easy assignment, especially for one who has been a member of the Association for twenty years and one of its secretaries." A hop, skip, and a jump through the files of the California Garden, deemed I, would bring to my mind some of the activities of not recent date. So a complete file of California Garden, from Vol. I, No. 1 (July 1909), to Vol. XXX, No. 11 (June, 1939), and I took to a quiet corner. But at the turn of the first page of Vol. I, No. 1 all possibility of the hop, skip and jump method hopped, skipped and jumped away, with the result that hours in larger number than that of the age of the Floral Association held me glued to those journals.

The contents of California Garden have a peculiarly tenacious effect upon one. The articles and editorials fairly bulge with literary value, with human interest, and invaluable horticultural information. They show a rare appreciation of civic affairs and a strong sense of responsibility for activities leading to civic betterment. One could compile a fairly accurate sociological, economic and political survey of the City of San Diego for the past 30 years, as indicated by the contents of California Garden published during that period of time.

I am now faced with the problems of choice and of elimination of possible notations, for the services of this ever busy, accomplishing association have been legion. If, reader, I have omitted the mention of some activity known to you and perhaps cherished by you, pray forgive. It is not a question of values, for who is to say what is of value and what is not? It is simply a question of space.

Meetings of Association

Every month for thirty-two years the regular meetings have been held, from 1907 to 1923 in private homes and downtown halls. Since 1923 regular meetings have been held in the Floral Association Building in Balboa Park, except for the two years, 1935 and 1936, when we loaned our building to the Exposition and met in the Chamber of Commerce rooms.

Fine programs, dealing with the theory and the practice of horticulture and with allied subjects have been presented. Local talent and imported talent have been employed. There has usually been an exchange and distribution of plants, seeds, slips and cuttings at these meetings.

From 1907 to 1915 regular out-of-town meetings were also held once a month. The gardens of Mrs. Scripps at Pacific Beach, of Mrs. Darling at Chula Vista, and Mrs. Sturgis etc. were visited. From 1915 to the present time such visits to local private and public gardens of interest have been subject to call. An average of eight such visits per year have occurred.

Twice, in 1932 and again in 1933, the Association accepted the courtesies of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Robinson and sponsored a Wisteria Festival Week, with open house daily in the Rosecroft Begonia Gardens. Hundreds of visitors swarmed to this beauty spot and were benefited by the lectures held in conjunction with the events.

California Garden

The California Garden made its bow to the public in July, 1909. It holds a record of having had a continuous publication since that date, and of being the oldest garden publication in the state.

Mr. Alfred Robinson the founder-president, was the first editor, and through all these years, has born the major task of editorship, having been called back to that post several times. Mr. G. R. Gorton, Mr. R. R. McLean, Mr. Silas Osborne, Mr. John Bakkers, Miss Mary Matthews, Mr. John Wimmer, Mr. Tom McMullen and now Mr. Roland Hoyt, have edited for various length terms.

The size of the publication has increased, and likewise the price, from five cents per copy for the original eight-page unbound folder, to the present rate of one dollar per year.

Some of the finest writers in this and in other countries have been contributors. It is of interest to note that Miss K.O. Sessions has an article on the Romneya Coulteri in the first issue of California Garden which is reprinted in this issue. She has contributed to almost every number since, and incidentally, she is still boosting for Romneya Coulteri. "We should have more of them," is her watchword.

The services on the magazine are all volunteer. Nothing in the form of salary or of paid manuscript was ever considered until the year 1931. Since then a small sum has been paid the editor to allow for clerical work etc. It has a large circulation to every state in the Union and to many foreign countries.

Flower Shows

The most spectacular service rendered the community by the Association are the large and the small flower shows. The first Fall Show was held in 1907. In October, 1909, the third Fall Show was staged at the Grant Hotel to celebrate the opening of that hostelry.

Spring and Fall Shows have been held every year in rooms, public halls, Mission Cliff Pavilion, Unity Hall, Arcade Building, Cristobal Cafe, Maryland hotel, Bridges Building, Civic Auditorium and since 1926 twice each year in what is now known as the Flower Show building in Balboa Park.

There have been many chairmen of the shows: Mr. Guy Fleming, Mr. Alfred Robinson, Miss Alice Rainford, Mr. Forrest Heiatt, Mr. Louis Blochman and many others, but consecutively for every show from the year 1923 to the present time, Mrs. Mary Greer has been general chairman. Many class chairmen and others have assisted in the big task of staging shows. Until the year 1923 the general chairman in charge of the shows was remuner-

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"Les Anciens"

The editor does not care to resist an impulse to include a note of felicitation to our remaining pioneer gardeners. May those who have gone on, rest well assured their labors have come to fruit, even as they left. Looking at these people, their persons, their personalities and works, the present generation may see and approve some of the things that happen to those who offer themselves up to the influence of growing plants, the beauty of flowers, the fulfillment of a life of close contact with nature. The "Great Stone Face" of the infinite is moulded of such material as goes into these few, brief portraits.

Miss Kate O. Sessions, "K.O.", of inestimable service to the horticulture of Southern California these many years, loving, domineering, beloved in a way and with a depth to rival the very plants she has set. She still works her magic from her Pacific Beach gardens.

And who, among gardeners here, has not felt the strong, kindly hand of George W. Marston. It is everywhere in the community. It has marked all levels of local life and activities for good, economic and aesthetic. If the in-wrought modesty of the man tends to obscure the quantity of his accomplishments today, the future must evaluate truthfully, both degree and quality.

Mrs. Mary Greer has given deeply and long of herself to the Floral Association in terms of energy and time and an inexhaustible love for the appropriate and the beautiful. The white banner of a high ideal must carry through of itself, long after she passes it on to the next generation.

Alfred D. Robinson, more than any other is responsible for the Association's beginning and, above all, carried the magazine through the early and lean years. His very being carries the mellowed imprint of a deep and intelligent love for gardens. The Rosecroft Begonia Gardens lie too far out Point Loma way for the beaten path, yet mousetrapping gardeners step aside daily

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I Can Remember When . . .

By E. C. W.

The first people who came to Southern California to escape winter rather than to seek wealth, established a kind of basic planting that persisted well into this Century. As as result it is the background for the childhood memories of most middle aged San Diegans.

Judging by the gardens we knew, those early comers were interested mainly in growing plants and trees usually tub-bound "back home" in the east. So most San Diego children kept house under huge Date Palms that arched tent like down to the ground; stained their hands and clothes making concoctions with the milky sap of the great rubber trees, and regarded the inevitable Norfolk Pine with a certain vague disfavor because it was somehow not quite a Christmas tree.

In the light of landscaping theory it would seem the local founding fathers could hardly have found three species more artistically incompatible. But then, even interior decoration in the eighties must have tended to be incoherent. No doubt, too, the Puritan strain, even at this long remove from New England, found the luxuriance of sub-tropical growth sinful. Perhaps it was to mitigate the carnal beauty of the hibiscus that those early gardens were always so well mined with low growing sago palms and other harsh, thorny things to tear clothes and scratch arms and legs.

But there was always plenty of color. One standard planting was red geraniums in quantity. With very little encouragement they did grow up to the second story and so brightened the pages of unnumbered letters to unbelieving relatives in Iowa. Along the south wall of most houses there was a row of poinsettias with "flowers as big as dinner plates," another astonishing item for the family mail. Near the poinsettias, a bougainvillea was likely to blaze in its appropriate season, and barns and fences were garlanded with orange when the bignonias bloomed.

Sweet in those remembered gardens were the heliotropes—pale scraggly ones; sweeter still the lemon verbenas to crush in your palm and sniff. In the late winter there were always sweet peas, too, for children to pick and pick and pick. Usually they were grown on strings close set around a palm trunk. Once they were in full bloom they were a frill of color like the paper cuff on a lamb chop. Such householders as were short on palms, or whose palms were short on trunk, often strung the telephone poles in the same way. But that support must have been denied the early sweet pea growers of the eighties. Another favorite gambit was to fill a palm stump, left by termites or some other catastrophe, with a pale lavender geranium that hung its smooth shiny leaves over the edge like a kind of fleshy ivy, strangely blooming in this strange land.

Back yards were dotted with big clumps of papyrus and pampas grass. The Pampas fulfilled its victorian function of parlour decoration indoors, though sometimes one was filched for a knights plume. The papyrus, beheaded and pulled from its root, was by turns an ivory handled spear for the boys or a fairy queens wand for the girls. Pepper trees grew in backyards, too, or along the curbs. And since there were, on most streets, neither curbs nor paving, they did no damage and gave much pleasure. Even the most timid girl could cilmb a pepper tree and their branches were often conveniently disposed for platforms of planks.

Water, even in our time, was still precious. Thirsty shrubs were not favored. Lawns were always thin and often brown. Many houses had lippia lawns, no good for play because of the blanket of bees that had no special tolerance for the children.

Every place had marguerites—huge round bushes, pungently dusty—popular because they throve

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WHEN BALBOA PARK WAS YOUNG

LILY
LAGOON

HOUSE OF
HOSPITALITY
On Left

AMERICAN LEGION
BUILDING
Right

MONTEZUMA GARDENS That Was—Now ALCAZAR

TOWER OF
INTERNATIONAL
ARTS BUILDING
WHERE FLOWER
SHOWS ARE
HELD

EL PRADO
IN THE BEGINNING
Looking East

EL PRADO IN ITS PRIME
—Looking West

Problems of the Soil . . . .

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

Question: I have had much trouble with the roots of various flowers in two beds. Think there must be some disease in the soil. How can I sterilize it and with what material? Please give directions.—A.S.B.

Answer: Carbon bisulphide and formaldehyde are two good sterilizers. Carbon bisulphide is a little more expensive, but after using it the ground can be used sooner than if formaldehyde were applied. To use the carbon, inject about two ounces to every square foot, making the injection two or three inches deep and covering up with earth. Formaldehyde is applied in a 1¼ per cent solution, that is, 1¼ pints of formaldehyde should be diluted with 98¾ pints (about 12½ gallons). One gallon of the diluted material is sufficient to sterilize one cubic foot of soil. Neither carbon bisulphide nor formaldehyde should be used within several feet of plants whose roots may possibly be in the zone treated.

Ground sterilized with carbon bisulphide can be replanted within a week, but if formaldehyde is used a period of weeks, or possibly months may have to elapse. You should be able to detect no odor of formaldehyde whatever when you replant.

Question: I would like to ask a few questions about passion fruit. Are the plants annual or perennial? Do they bear the first season—if perennial—and how long will they continue to produce fruit? What kind of soil and exposure is best suitable for them? Are they sensitive to frost? Any information you can give me will be much appreciated.—E.W.N.

Answer: Passion fruits are evergreen and are climbers. They begin to bear two or three years after setting out and reach their maximum bearing capacity at 5 or 6 years of age. After that they may begin to lose their vigor and gradually decline. Proper care, including fertilization and irrigation, as well as protection from frost, may prolong their profitable bearing period for sometime, however.

Passion fruit will do well on almost any soil providing it is deep and well drained. Even if planted in very poor soil, the vines can be made to bear good crops if well fertilized. Drainage is essential, however. Particular attention must be given to exposure as regards frost. These plants are quite sensitive to cold and although they will withstand light frosts of a degree or two, especially after they are well grown, the young plants will suffer severely at low temperatures. Another point to be remembered in planting passion fruits is that they ought not to be placed where they are exposed to heavy winds.

If the few warnings indicated above are heeded, no difficulty should be experienced in growing this fine fruit, a market for which is now being developed. The warnings summarized are, (1) deep, well drained and well prepared soil; (2) a practically frost-free location; (3) planting out of the range of heavy winds; (4) plenty of organic fertilizers, such as strawy manures; and (5) irrigation as necessary.

Question: All the foliage has fallen from a young pepper tree we have and the bark on the trunk is scaling off. Can you tell us the trouble and give a remedy through the columns of the California Garden. Thank you.—Mrs. E.T.H.

Answer: One can only make a guess without knowing more about the conditions surrounding the tree. Two directly opposite causes may be assigned, one of which is too much water and the other not enough water. Excessive irrigation, especially if in heavy soil, is the most likely reason, however. Peppers, particularly when young, cannot stand water around the roots for any length of time. Leaves will shed under such conditions and the plants finally die, unless drainage is secured. Although the leaves might fall if not enough water was given, yet the plant would wilt first and the trouble be readily apparent.

Another cause of leaf drop is excess fertilizer, especially if one is applied that is very heavy in nitrogen. Young trees cannot handle much fertilizer and the tender roots are easily injured by it. Still another cause that might be assigned is injury to the crown or crown roots, such as might be caused by gophers. A final guess is a leaky gas pipe. No tree known to the writer is as quickly injured by gas than is the pepper.

If none of the possible causes indicated above seem to you to fit the case, send the writer your address and an inspector will be sent to investigate.

NOTICE

Mr. Frederick G. Jackson will talk on the flowers and gardens of New Orleans at the next meeting of the Floral Association, July 18, 1939. Be there for profit and pleasure.

Congratulations

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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASS'N.

Report of the Secretary for the year 1938-1939

This has been a very successful year for the Floral Association in many ways, but the thing that impressed me most I think, is the high and varied honors which have been bestowed upon several of our members.

Mr. John Morley, our Balboa Park Superintendent Emeritus, was named a fellow of the American Institution of Park Executives. This Association is so much a part of the Park and Mr. Morley so instrumental in securing this building for the Floral Home, that we are especially happy with him in this honor.

Many honors have come to Miss K. O. Sessions, the finest of all was the Meyer Medal, given by the American Genetic Association in recognition of her efforts in introducing new and useful plants, the first time this medal has been awarded to a woman. She was selected by the University of California Extension Department to conduct a class in Practical Gardening and Landscape Design, which class was so well attended and so much enthusiasm shown that other classes were organized. Miss Sessions was also invited to participate at the ground breaking for the glass house of the horticultural buildings on Treasure Island of the San Francisco Exposition.

Mrs. Neff Bakkers, our cactus and succulent expert was honored with a membership in the National Horticultural Association, for her contributions to that Association.

Mrs. W. S. Thomas and Miss Sessions were re-elected to the Board of Directors of the American Fuchsia Society and it is largely through their untiring work that we have great profusion of fuchsias which are so beautiful at this season of the year.

Our Treasurer Mr. Frederick Jackson was appointed Honorary Commissioner of Floral Culture of the San Diego County Fair Association and I think he contributed much to the marked improvement in arrangement and housing of the Floral Department last year and we hope he will be reappointed this year, for that is the County Flower Show and is well worth going out to see.

We had a very fine fall flower show and the Chrysanthemum show here in the building was most satisfactory as we had a number of new exhibitors and that is always pleasing. The spring show was most beautiful and I think all felt the influence of the work of that fine artist Mr. Norman Edwards who conducted such a very successful course of illustrated lectures on flower arrangement. These lectures were so well attended they netted a nic profit for the Association.

We have had very instructive lectures and discussions at the monthly meetings with materials brought in for show or identification. Mr. Charles Gibbs Adams filled the house to capacity with his talk on his trip into Mexico, illustrated with moving pictures. Mr. Clinton Abbott of the Natural History Museum gave a very informative talk on the banding of Birds and Mr. Poland of the Fine Arts Gallery brought and hung many pictures from the Gallery illustrating his talk on Flowers in Art, showing designs of flowers in the earliest sculpture. Mr. Frank Gander of the Museum brought a great profusion of potted native shrubs and plants and urged their use in our gardens, showing their adaptation thereto. These speakers expressed the fine spirit of friendliness and cooperation among the institutions of Balboa Park, reminding us we are all working for the one big interest—the beautification of our city.

We are happy to welcome so many new members and subscribers to our magazine and appreciation is extended to Mr. Shoven for the very successful membership drive conducted by his committee. At one time this association had one thousand members, and at the annual meeting that year one hundred new members were received. If outsiders were reached and informed of the splendid benefits received with a membership, we should have no trouble in again having one thousand members, for there is no doubt, that working in the garden among our favorite plants and flowers can ease the strain and restlessness that has become such a part of modern living. In carrying on any civic organization the cooperation of the majority of its members is needed and the thirty two years of continued activity, the many projects begun and achieved, has proved there has been much pleasure and satisfaction in united efforts.

Our Native Planting is going forward with much interest and the area granted for that work by the Park Board will be a credit to the Association as much so as the Cactus and succulent garden and serve as well, in beautifying prominent parts of the Park.

Our Magazine is the connecting link with those of our members who cannot attend our meetings, as Mr. Robinson used to say "The mouth piece of the Association" a real book of knowledge for the use of the gardener, with writers of authority in their special field. The advertisers are all reliable merchants and should be noted and patronized.

(Continued on Page 16)

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Poison Oak and Its Prevention

By R. R. McLEAN

During the vacation season many people make the acquaintance of poison oak for the first time and still others renew a previous painful acquaintance with it. Many fortunate persons, on the other hand, seem to be able to even handle the plants without becoming poisoned. Presumably no absolute immunity exists, but armed with a definite knowledge of the appearance and identity of poison oak and by the use of preventives or remedies just before or immediately following exposure, even the most susceptible can to a considerable extent avoid an unpleasant experience.

There are, throughout the country, various forms of this perennial plant, all quite closely related and belonging to the Sumac family. In the eastern and central states poison ivy occurs as a vine, trailing shrub or a bush and along the eastern seaboard southward, another form known as the oak-leaf poison ivy is common. In the eastern states east of the Pacific Slope another form occurs, known as poison oak, which is found as a non-climbing bush or trailing shrub. In the Pacific coast region there is still another type found, also known as poison oak.

Our western poison oak, **Rhus diversiloba,** usually occurs as an erect bush from four to eight feet high, the leaves bearing a resemblance to those of certain oaks. It may be also found as a climbing vine and in this case is sometimes called poison ivy. The leaves of poison oak are normally bright green and shining above but paler beneath. They may also take on a reddish hue in the summer and fall. They are borne in series of three, giving rise to the old couplet, "Leaflets three, let it be." Although all parts of the plant are poisonous, even after long drying, it is generally true that growth in which the sap is abundant is most dangerous. Such growth would be found in the spring and early summer. A large number of persons are poisoned each year by touching or brushing against the plants or by handling clothing or other articles that have been in contact with them, although even the smoke of burning bushes will carry the poison to susceptible persons.

The poisonous principle is a non-volatile, oily substance known as Toxicodendrol, which has such violently irritant properties that the slightest trace deposited on the skin is capable of producing severe irritation. The symptoms of poisoning are too familiar, consisting of itching or burning sensations with reddening of the poisoned surfaces and more or less swelling, usually followed by the appearance of small vesicles which may run together and form painful blisters.

As to prevention, sensitive persons should not only avoid touching the plants but use considerable care in handling articles that may have been in contact with them. Contaminated shoes, clothing or tools are sometimes sources of poison as are even animals, as dogs and cats, that have access to the plants. After exposure an immediate effort should be made to remove the poison on exposed surfaces before it penetrates the skin. Thorough and repeated washing and rinsing are advised, using ordinary alkaline laundry soap and hot water, lathering freely. If the washing is not thorough, it may result in spreading the poison rather than removing it. The hands, particularly the nails, should receive especial attention in order to remove all traces of poison. The tender skin between the fingers should not be overlooked. Do not use a scrubbing brush. Equal parts of alcohol and water are also effective in removing the surface poison, but must be used thoroughly and repeatedly.

Another preventive that is useful in neutralizing the poison is iron chloride solution, prepared by adding 5 parts of ferric chloride to 95 parts of a half and half mixture of water and glycerin. Ferrous sulphate may also be used, mixing 1 part with 5 parts of water. These salts of iron preparation may be applied freely to the exposed parts of the body before exposure to poison oak if the possibility of such exposure is known in advance, or they may be used immediately after contact with the plants. Still another recommended preventive is a 10 percent mixture of benzoyl peroxide in talcum powder, dusted on prior to or immediately after exposure. However, if severe inflammation results in spite of all precautions, a physician should be consulted immediately as under certain conditions the effects of poison oak may be serious.

Association Report

(Continued from Page 15)

Our fall flower show will soon be upon us, let us show a greater interest by asking our friends and neighbors to exhibit and also, in volunteering, to assist our President in the many departments she needs helpers to lighten the responsibilities of the Association. You remember Kipling wrote "And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden, you will find yourself a Partner in the "Glory of the Garden."

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Ward,
Secretary.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Report of the Treasurer for 1938-39

Receipts

Memberships	$ 474.50
Subscriptions	124.10
Advertising	193.50
Shows	856.55
Lectures	283.10
Rents and Silver Offerings	53.11
Total	$2119.15

Disbursements

Publication of Magazine	$ 806.48
Current Expenses	502.23
Expense of Shows	431.91
Total	$1752.92
	$ 366.33

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick G. Jackson,
Treasurer

ROMNEYA COULTERI, OR MATILIJA POPPY

By K. O. Sessions

Exceeding all other poppies in the world is this half shrubby, perennial-rooted plant, six to fifteen feet high, with sage green leaves and immense bright white, crumpled silken flowers, six to nine inches in diameter. It is a native to the ravines and stream banks of Southern California, from Santa Barbara county to Ensenada, Lower California. It was discovered about 1832 by Dr. Thomas Coulter, and was dedicated to his astronomer friend, Dr. Romney Robinson. The original of this sketch was a stray seedling in a San Diego garden about fourteen years ago. It differs from the two types growing wild about Otay and Jamul and other sections. Note the very smooth and pointed bud, the half-opened bud, the very large stamen cluster, the large deeply cleft leaves. The other varieties have rounded hairy buds and smaller leaves, and there is never seen a half-opened bud; the flowers have a more circular appearance and are not so large.

The Romneya is difficult to propagate and transplant. About October 15 the plants should be severely trimmed back and after the first rains, or November 1st, transplant those that are to be moved. They should not be moved unless absolutely necessary. They spread and increase by underground shoots until a clump will soon occupy a large space. They may also be propagated by root cuttings in the fall in the nursery.

It is possible to cut half-blown buds, like the subject illustrated and ship as far as San Francisco, and they will open up large and perfect.

Every Southern California garden should grow this plant, and it is to be hoped that the nucleus now in the City Park will some day occupy at least ten acres.

This poppy is the treasured plant of a few English gardeners, and it has been grown in Vermont for three years with careful winter protection. It thrives in the light soil of Coronado, as it requires a well-drained location.

This flower is one of the most difficult to paint, and is only occasionally well done. San Diego's artist, Mr. A. L. Valentine, is one who can equal nature, and his sketches of this flower will help bring fame to this deserving queen of wild flowers.

I Can Remember When

(Continued from Page 11)

in dry ground. Lantana, ignorantly planted in the eighties as a small shrub, loomed in great clumps that were usually trimmed on the garden side, riotous on the vacant lot which was always next door. On the trimmed side they were a kind of twiggy cave in which we found it fun to play in spite of the ensuing grubbiness.

Castor beans from the lot next door, leaves from our own camphor trees, and pepper berries stocked our juvenile drug stores and we never gave up trying to make an ink out of the red blossoms of the common ice-plant that would last on paper as it did on our white cotton garments.

Roses and similar elegant parlor flowers, played no part in our lives —they were surrounded by prohibitions more potent than thorns. But there was one tall shrub, densely green, that bore long waxy flowers known to us only as Chinese lanterns, that overcame all scruples. Those cream - white, exotically shaped blossoms hanging pale and fragrant in the dusk were a temptation not to be resisted. Once you had the courage to steal one, you could swing it back and forth on its stem like a bell until the sweetness floated out like sound.

No new cottage today starts out with the handicap of the traditional Date Palm, Rubber Tree and Norfolk Pine. Olives and Acacias are more usual than Camphors and Peppers—and Lantana is sparingly employed. Poinsettias and Bougainvilleas flare against stucco walls more frequently alone than together, while the use of Palm trunks in decorative floral effects is an almost forgotten art. The Gardenia replaces the Chinese Lanterns whose more prosaic name, Datura, we never knew. So the children of today landscape their memories with plant materials quite different from ours.

June Meeting

The annual meeting of the San Diego Floral Association was held June 20th with Mrs. Mary Greer, president, presiding. Included in her opening remarks, Mrs. Greer stressed a plea for more members, and suggested that each member bring in a new one, adding with a slogan for the club—"More And Better Meetings." She made mention that the next issue of California Garden, being a 30th anniversary number of the magazine, would be one of extra merit.

The club's secretary, Mrs. DeForrest Ward, gave in her report, a most satisfactory review of the year's work, and in the absence of Mr. Frederick G. Jackson, read the treasurer's report. Election of officers and directors for the coming year include the names given in California Garden for the past year.

Of interest to all persons present were the comprehensive talks by two travellers—Mr. C. J. Jerebek, and Miss Kate O. Sessions—each describing the flora and plant life of cities and country through which they traveled.

Of special attention were specimens brought by Mr. and Mrs. Hermants, of Acacia velutina having clusters of bright yellow blooms and handsome green leafage. Another, was a giant double daisy of pure white, developed from the Shasta daisy.

The club rooms, attractively decorated by Mrs. Arthur Shoven, and refreshments served by the House Committee, together with a social hour terminated the year's successful meetings. —G.M.G.

Dahlias for Exhibition

Several weeks before exhibiting, select dahlias suitable for display and give them special care. Again fertilize, using manure broadcast or in liquid form, one part to four parts of water; fill in basin first with fresh water, then finish with

(Continued on Page 25)

Book Reviews . . . . . .

By LESTER ROWNTREE and ROLAND HOYT

GARDENING IN THE SHADE

At last we have a book on gardening in the shade. Most gardeners, unless they are operating on the desert, will be glad to hear this, because we all have a bit of shade, if only that of our houses. But those gardeners who have little but shade are the ones who will leap at the book, for it is something they have been wanting for years; up till now all the material on the subject which they have been able to find has been in stray magazine articles.

In "Gardening in the Shade" (Scribner, $3.00) Mrs. H. K. Morse does a very important and necessary thing—she classifies her shades. All too often we hear or read the unqualified word "shade" when what we want to know is how much and what kind of shade a plant needs. Then she has also assorted the types of shady gardens into woodland gardens, shady terraces, water gardens in the shade, beds and borders in the shade and the shady city back yard. In each of these situations Mrs. Morse tells us what will grow and how much shade each plant will take, gives suggested planting combinations and various cultural hints.

At the end of the book is an invaluable directory of plants for shade, divided into Annuals, Aquatics, Bulbs and Allied Plants, Ferns, Herbaceous Perennials, Deciduous Shrubs and Trees, Evergreen Shrubs and Trees, and Vines, Woody and Herbaceous. Every plant in this directory is given its color, height, period of bloom, and the degree of shade and sort of soil which is its preference.

The gardening knowledge of most of our garden-book writers seems to be limited to the eastern and northeastern states. It is, of course, hard to crowd into one lifetime the experience of actually gardening in all of the several different climates of the United States. That is why so many shade loving plants of California and the western and southern states are not included in "Gardening in the Shade." Some day, perhaps, some one familiar with the shade plants of all parts of our country will cover the subject more fully. It is really time horticultural writers remembered that no small proportion of American gardeners are working west and south of the Appalachian Mountains.

Many of the photographs in Mrs. Morse's book are very good. It is not easy, as I know from my own experience, to take telling photographs of plants in shade, but these show just what is needed to convey the real living picture to the mind of the reader.

Lester Rowntree,
Carmel, California.

THE GARDENERS LIBRARY
Edited for The Massachusetts Horticultural Society
By Edward I. Farrington

Mr. Farringtons connection with this group of little manuals is first class insurance of general adaptability and superior merit. Each covers its respective field concisely, yet thoroughly, leaving the gardener with a feeling he has been given the essentials of good practice. Any attempt to allow for differences in climate, or even a general recognition of problems peculiar to the far South in gardening, is many times appreciated here. This is doubtless due to the fact that only recently have northern writers felt the urge or desirability to include some small thought of locale in their work. Here are four little books, each of which has something for us away down in the far corner of the country.

Hale, Cushman & Flint, 1939.
$1.00 each

HERBS: How to grow them and how to use them.
By Helen Noyes Webster

This is a subject of ever increasing interest in Southern California where conditions are ideal for growing these plants to develop the maximum in culinary value. Period gardens in this relation are outlined, the matter of curing and uses taken up, while much in the chapter on general directions will be found applicable to normal garden practices. This little book of 156 pages will find a welcome place here.

THE GARDENERS ALMANAC
By Edward I. Farrington

What to do in the garden and when, so that you may not overlook certain operations or pertinent facts as related to the calendar. This happens each month and the South has an appreciable share of space, all its own. Much of the material is reprint from the magazine HORTICULTURE, a publication of national scope that is almost never seen here.

ROCK GARDENS and what to grow in them.
James H. Bissland

The title is most significant for these regions because we are only beginning to find out what plants to use in rockwork. There is a definite and very real correlation between the plant and the rock, naturally, by association and of course, culturally. We must come to know this if our rock gardens are to compare favorably with those of temperate climates. The beginner with rock in California may well start this book with chapter V and in the end come back to it. For those who are well along in this delightful hobby and wish to continue onward, the list of books and articles in the back organizes available reading material very completely.

THE LAWN: How to make it and how to maintain it.
By Charles W. Parker

This has much information on the fundamentals of lawn making, maintenance, and the control of pests, sifted down to essentials. Many cuts and photographs help the amateur, but he must know some of the operations shown that do not go with this frostless locality such as heavy rolling. Some lawn substitutes are discussed which touches on a very important question for the far south. —R.S.H.

Outline of Activities

(Continued from Page 10)

ated to the amount of anywhere from ten to seventy-five dollars. Since that time, however, the services of the general chairman, as well as all other workers have been aboslutly unremunerated.

Since the first Spring Show, roses have been the main feature of the Spring Shows. From 1907 to 1912 the Fall Shows featured chrysanthemums. Since that date, dahlias have been the main attraction.

Admission prices have varied from nothing, during the 1936 Exposition to 25 cents. At various times proceeds of the shows have been turned over to civic and charitable organizations, but for many years the proceeds of the shows have been the main source of revenue for the publication of the California Garden.

In March, 1915 the first free Bulb Show was staged. It was held in the Exposition as an educational feature for the visitors. Since that time, small, free seasonal shows have been held several times each year in the Floral Building, under the auspices of the House Committee, chrysanthemum, bulb, berried shrub, Christmas greens, "weeds" etc.

Garden Contests

The city wide services of the Garden Contest which at present is very active, was organized in the years 1928 and 1929 by Walter Merrill, its first chairman. Many private and public gardens have been entered for the semi-annual judgings of the contest. As many as 75 gardens have been entered and judged in one season. Ribbons, cups, and plaques are awarded as prizes.

Public Lectures

From time to time the Association has brought before the public outstanding lecturers and teachers of international fame, such as F. M. Schultz, of the University of California, in a course of six lectures on California wild flowers, (spring of 1920); M. Correvon of Switzerland, on Alpine gardens (April 1926); John Wister, president of the American Iris Society, on European gardens, (1923), and on iris (April 1938); Madame Marie de Mare, official lecturer for the Federation d'l Alliance Francaise, on French gardens and literature, (September 1930); Norman Edwards and William Allen of Los Angeles, in a course of four lectures and demonstration lessons in flower arrangement, (March 1939); Akemo Togo of Japan, on flower arrangement, (March 1935); L. H. Bailey of Cornell University, (November 1936), and many others.

Library

The Association formed a George Cook Memorial Library in 1910 and loaned it to the San Diego Public Library. Alice Klauber designed an Association book plate for use in these books.

There is maintained in the Floral Building a small library of garden books—William Robinson's, Bailey's Encyclopedias, late garden publications, magazines and pamphlets. The building is open on certain days for the use of these books.

Public Plantings

In the years 1910 and 1911, members of the Association planted hillsides near Mission Cliff Gardens with wild flower seeds.

January 26, 1911, was Special Wild Flower Day in which "members and others who cared to go met at Fifth and D with poppy seeds and implements to cover the seed and went to a place where the Adams Avenue line crosses the canyon into Kensington Park." Then they planted. Nature did the rest. Such a meeting was held once a month during the planting season.

In Golden Hill Park, overlooking the playground is a grove of 29 pepper trees, the George Cook Memorial Grove, planted, dedicated, and marked with a copper plate, which was unveiled in dedicatory exercises held on the spot by the Floral Assocition on March, 1911. George Cook, the noted landscape architect, who did much for Balboa Park in early days, was an active worker in the Floral Association.

The Association took the first steps in instigating the preservation of Torrey Pines. In September, 1916, the members acting upon permission granted by the City Council and by Miss Scripps, owner then of part of the grove, went in a body to the Torrey Pines, cleaned the place, provided and posted fire warnings, put name plates on the trees, posted notices of educative value, and placed incinerators. Committees consulted with the City Council and with Miss Scripps as to the permanent preservation of the grove and for several years were very active in the work until the preservation was a reality.

Perhaps one of the best services to the public was the work done in

(Continued on Page 20)

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Outline of Activities

(Continued from Page 19)

connection with the preservation of the El Monte Oaks. In May, 1920, a Floral Association committee committee composed of Messrs. Marston, Klauber, Templeton Johnson, Heiatt, Gorton and Fletcher consulted with the County Supervisors, with the result that the present site of El Monte Oak Park was bought by the county and set aside as a public park, thus preserving that grand stand of oaks. The same committee raised by subscription the sum of $5,000, for equipment needed for the grounds until such time as the supervisors should take them over.

The Kate Sessions aloe and agave planting in Balboa Park, acclaimed by many scientists to be one of the finest plantings of its kind, was first started by the Association in 1932, as a tribute to its outstanding member. It was formally dedicated, the bronze plaque unveiled, and the area presented to the City of San Diego by President Mrs. Mary Greer in March 1935.

The most recent public planting is the Native Plant Sanctuary in Balboa Park, near the golf course. It was first started by a small planting in March, 1938. On June 24, of this year an oak was planted, a bronze marker unveiled and the area dedicated to Mrs. Mary Greer, president of the Association for thirteen years. In this sanctuary native trees, plants and shrubs will be planted and cared for under the auspices of the Floral Association and the Park Board.

Garden Tours

Aside from the regular garden tours for members held throughout the year, two very special series were managed by the Floral Association. In 1932 garden tours to outstanding gardens in San Diego and its environs were held for the Olympic Game visitors within our city. Two tours per day for ten days were held. Each tour covered a different itinerary. The whole series was taxed beyond capacity.

During the year of 1935, daily tours subject to call were conducted for the enjoyment of Exposition visitors. These were courtesy tours.

Service To School Children

Way back in 1919 there was no regular garden department in connection with the City Schools. There was comparatively no planting around the school premises. A committee from the Association consulted with the Board of Education in regard to planting and beautifying the school grounds. Much favorable action resulted. Committees from the Association went to the schools and talked to the assembled students in regard to school and home planting; aided by donations of plants and seeds and by forming planting clubs.

The year 1909 saw the inception of a prize contest for home gardens kept by children. The contest was sponsored in conjunction with the Waltham Watch Co., which contributed seventy-five dollars for prizes. A total of two hundred eighteen children entered the contest.

In December, 1921, the Parent-Teachers' Association requested the help of the Association in regard to the planting of sweet peas by the children. Consequently, the Association donated ninety-six packets of sweet pea seeds to ninety-six county schools. Full sets of directions for culture went with the seeds. The blooms were to be given to guests, members of the Mothers' Congress at their convention in San Diego.

County Tree Planting

At the request of Col. Fletcher, in December 1921, a committee of the Association conferred with and advised the Board of County Supervisors as to the best species of trees to plant on the highway in their campaign of tree planting in connection with the State Forestry Board activities.

In 1920 the same committee worked with the City Council in connection with a city wide street tree planting campaign.

Flowers for Public Buildings

For many years, beginning in 1909, a committee kept the Chamber of Commerce rooms supplied with specimen flowers and with decorative bouquets, accompanied with educative information.

From 1916 to 1918 weekly exhibits of twenty or more vases of native and other flowers were placed in the rotunda of the San Diego Public Library. Good labels and educative information accompanied the exhibit.

Publicity

Somehow the Association raised one hundred dollars in June, 1913, to make autochrome plates of the floral scenes in and around San Diego. The plates were used locally and in the East to advertise San Diego as a land of flowers. A sort

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Service To Base Hospital

Never to be forgotten are the many boxes of flowers that were sent each week to the Camp Kearny Base Hospital wards, from February, 1918 to January, 1920, with never a week missed. Mrs. Greer, Miss Jones and Mrs. Williams carried on this work. In all, three thousand twenty-four suit boxes of flowers were collected, sorted, packed and sent to the men.

Balboa Park Auditorium

In 1921 the Association became one of the twenty organizations to manage the Balboa Auditorium which it did through its representative, Mrs. Mary Greer, until such time as the auditorium burned in 1926.

The Association Medal

In March, 1911, mention of an Association medal was first made. "It was proposed to substitute medals for or in addition to the cups given at shows." Finally after years of discussion, watching, waiting and planning, in June, 1929, the Association medal designed by Mrs. Martha Jones the miniature painter, materialized. Since that time, the silver and the bronze medals have been awarded in very special classes at the shows.

Prize Rose Contest

A very interesting service, which extended over a period of two years, was that placed upon the Association by the Directors of the 1915 Exposition. The Association was empowered to select the winner, fix the conditions, and have charge of the contest for the one thousand dollar prize new rose. Because no rose from those submitted by growers from many parts of the United States, and cared for during a two year period by the Floral Association and the Park Board, was deemed worthy of the prize, the thousand dollars remained in the possession of the Exposition Directors.

Protective Ordinance

With Editor R. R. McLean the Association was instrumental in the year 1927 in having the San Diego County Board of Supervisors pass an ordinance making it a misdemeanor for "any person, firm or corporation to mutilate or destroy any yucca plants, (Y. whippeli; Y. mohaviensis; Y. baccata), or to pick or cut any blossom or blossoms therefrom, growing on public or private land, in the County of San Diego without a permit by the Board of Supervisors of said county, or in the case of private land, unless the owner gives his consent thereto."

Iris Section

An iris section of the Association with Mrs. Herbert Evans honorary chairman, was formed in September, 1929, for the purpose of further study of iris culture. The section has staged exhibits and given programs for the general membership of the Association.

Floral Association Home

For thirteen years Mr. Robinson and others talked Floral Association Home, propagandised, begged, and used more than moral suasion, but no home materialized until May, 1923, when the Park Board granted the Floral Association the building known, as the Kansas Building during the 1915 Exposition, for use as a public building. By private subscription and from the general funds, twenty-eight hundred dollars were eventually spent in repairs. Gifts by friends made equipment and furnishings possible. For sixteen years now the building has been the center of all our activities, our place of meeting, a center for holding small shows, and our annual benefit card parties. It has been the roof over our worldly possessions for sixteen years, except for the two years that we loaned it to the 1936 Exposition for the use of the press representatives.

Decorations

Constantly the Association is called upon to decorate banquet halls, tables and auditoriums for civic affairs.

Judges

Not the least part of the services is the supplying of judges for the flower shows in San Diego and environs. When Spring rolls around, the shows start up as does the grass

(Continued on page 25)

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Night Lighting in the Garden

By A. I. BENEDICT

If half the fun of making a garden is watching it develop, then certainly the other half is showing it off after it is fully grown and in bloom.

Garden lovers spend much time, of necessity, working in the garden during the day. During the months when the sun is high this becomes rather difficult for some ,because of the execessive heat. Many have time for this pleasure only during Saturday or Sunday—just the days when the family would like to take a trip or play a game of golf. By the use of artificial light in the garden much can be accomplished in the evening when it is cooler, and the week-end may be used for other pursuits.

Any 210 watt floodlight is sufficient for night work in the average sized home garden. There is nothing expensive about either the unit or the operating cost. Cigarettes are far more expensive to use than a 200 watt flood light, because the latter cost is about one half a cent per hour.

Some folks have their garden just outside the living room window. However, when darkness falls, the black window is the outside limit of the living room. Why not floodlight the garden from under the eaves of the house and extend the limit of the living room out into a beautiful garden?

Each garden has its own individuality, so that the job becomes one for the lighting specialist who knows the types of equipment available and their uses. In the preceding paragraphs we mentioned generalities. Following are some interesting possibilities.

Pathways and steps may be lighted for safety and beauty. A rustic lantern concealing a small flood light in the bottom may be hung from a tree or slender ornamental post.

Light may be thrown against a garden wall or a light colored fence, so that vines and shrubs stand out in dark relief and the nearby areas are dimly lighted by reflection.

Fountains and lily ponds may be high lighted by small spot lights or under water lights installed in the pool. Statues or figures may be spot lighted to advantage, care being taken not to annoy neighbors by stray beams of light striking them in the eye.

Arches and pergolas may be lighted to advantage for several purposes. Light them so that they may be seen for their beauty of shape or form, or in a manner which will permit the use of a chair or table beneath.

Flower beds or borders may be outlined by small lamps attached to spikes. These lamps should have shields in front of them to prevent glare. The shields may be of conventional design or may be in the shape of birds or flowers.

Some folks might appreciate a tall spike with a small spot light on it, which might be moved from night to night as the various plants come into bloom. One choice bloom highlighted by itself would be beautiful indeed, against the darkness of the night.

In all the various ideas offered it would be well to use white, instead of frosted lamp bulbs. Colored lights in a garden do not help the color value of flowers. We doubt whether it is possible to improve on nature's color scheme. Comparatively low wattage lamps are to be used, which means that the cost of operating them is extremely low. Furthermore, the hours of burning are very few.

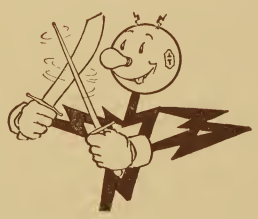
Why not enjoy your garden after sundown, and show it to your guests of the evening?

"Les Anciens"

(Continued from Page 11)

to see the man and his works.

May the happiness and satisfactions all these people know, remain long with them, and the benefits and privileges they have accorded, serve to temper the times for we who follow. R. S. H.



Ferdinand 'Better Watch Out!

. . . . Because there's going to be a lot of barbacueing going on now that the garden lights are installed around the barbacue pit. Yes siree! That's where the good times are going to be this summer with warm evenings ahead.

And the cost is surprising little. Just give me a "buzz" aad one of our Company representatives will call and help you make suggestions for your garden lighting. (There is no charge or obligation.)

. . . . "REDDY"

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The Founders

(Continued from Page 9)

were K. O. Sessions, E. Benard, G. P. Hall, J. W. Russell and myself, and I doubt if K. O. Sessions has missed a number since, usually sending in more than one article.

At the period of which I write our Fair City of San Diego had not assumed metropolitan airs, and a spirit of family hospitality was general, which made possible the holding of the early meetings by invitation in the homes of members, and I recall a conversation in San Francisco with H. Plath then head of a Florist organization there. He was curious about the why and wherefore of the phenomenal success of the S.D.F.A. and when I attributed a good deal of it to the meeeting in private homes he sighed and said: "You can do it, we cannot, you are not too big."

These meetings had the minimum of business, lots of helpful talks and discussions and a modicum of amusement and music, and in those days musicians donated their talent freely, and surely Mrs. L. L. Rowan and her pupils should be mentioned. A committee was supposed to help the hostess with decorations etc. These acted as hostesses as recorded in the first volume of California Garden. Mrs. Jarvis L. Doyle, Mrs. W. S. Hebbard, Mrs. F. W. Vogt, Mrs. C. A. Scott, Mrs. Fred Scripps, Mrs. M. German, Mrs. George Sturges, Mrs. L. A. Blochman, and of these all but Mrs. Scripps have moved or passed on.

There is another roll of honor in that Garden volume, the subscribers to a fund to wipe out the deficit acquired at one of the early shows,

(Continued on Page 25)

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Outline of Activities

(Continued from Page 21)

on the hills. That means many judges on duty.

These are some of the highlights and side lights of the services of the San Diego Floral Association during its lifetime of three decades.

—Alice Greer

The Founders

(Continued From Page 24)

a certain result then. Here it is with no attempt at arrangement: San Diego Union, Southern Electric Co., Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson, jr., F. S. Jennings, J. M. Chapman, First National Bank, Southern Trust and Savings Bank, Marine National Bank, Merchants National Bank, Mrs. Tom Kneale, Miss Mary Mathews, John Gay, G. H. Bigelow A. Blochman, Lanier Hotel, Mrs. Herman Copeland, Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Herman. They sponged the slate quite clean. Later and for many times others joined this group.

There is much more that should be set down here but why not get the early copies of California Garden and read it all first hand.

Alfred D. Robinson.

DAHLIAS

(Continued from Page 17)

liquid fertilizer. A handful of potash carefully spread around the basin will aid in the stiffening of the stems. Flowers no matter how large and otherwise perfect are valueless from an exhibitor's standpoint if open centers are in evidence.

Dahlias should be cut late in the evening, placed in cool water up to the neck. Next morning cut off all extra foliage, ¼ inch of the stem and place in fresh water. This procedure, if repeated, will insure the keeping of flowers for several days. Many people boil or burn stems; this really is not necessary and does not add anything to the life of the flower.

—M. C. Pfefferkorn

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